

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action dated March 19, 2003 and the references cited therein. Applicants have amended claims 26, 32, 35, 36 and 40. In addition, applicants have added new independent claim 41 that is generally based on claim 23. Claims 16-32 and 35-41 are currently pending in this application. Applicants believe the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration in light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, applicants note that the Examiner required the filing of a new specification that includes all of the changes entered into the specification thus far. Accordingly, submitted herewith is a new specification that serves as a substitute or replacement of the specification previously filed. The issues noted by the Examiner in Paragraph 2 of the Office Action have been addressed in the new specification. The new specification does not include any new matter. The Examiner also objected to an informality in claim 40. Claim 40 has been amended to correct the issue noted by the Examiner.

Claims 16-23, 25-32 and 35-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,716,024 to Kaufmann. Likewise, claims 24 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over the Kaufmann patent in view of the Horvath patent. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the pending claims.

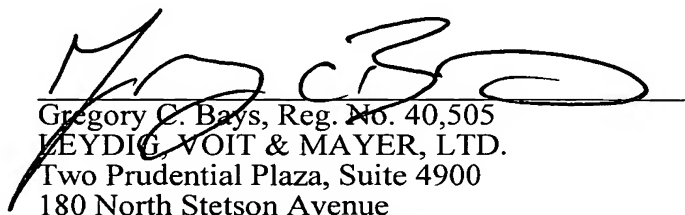
With respect to independent claim 16, applicants submit that neither of the cited references teach or suggest a yarn feeder having a fastening clamp with a box-like cross-sectional profile in which the portions that incur clamping forces are formed entirely of the plastic material of the housing. The Kaufmann patent does not disclose the entire structure of the clamp 6. In particular, the bottom portion of the clamp structure is missing (see FIG. 1 of the Kaufmann patent). Without some sort of structure at the lower end of the clamp, the clamp 6 shown in the Kaufmann patent drawings could not effectively secure the yarn feeder to a retaining device of a textile machine as called for in claim 16. This is confirmed by the enclosed set of operating instructions for the yarn feeder disclosed in the Kaufmann patent. As can be seen in FIG. 7 of the operating instructions, the clamp 6 requires an additional contact block 7 and cover plate 11 at the lower end of the clamp in order to effectively secure the yarn feeder to the textile machine. Both the contact block 7 and cover plate 11 incur clamping forces, but are made of a metal material (see also the enclosed photos of a sample yarn feeder according to the Kaufmann patent). The Kaufmann patent includes no teaching or suggestion that the contact block and cover plate can be made of a plastic material. Thus, applicants submit that claim 16 and the claims depending therefrom are patentable over the Kaufmann patent.

With respect to amended claim 26, applicants submit that the Kaufmann patent does not teach or suggest a yarn feeder having a fastening clamp with portions "extending through and beyond a plane defined by a rim of the drive pulley that engages an edge of the drive belt on a yarn guide drum side of the belt." The Kaufmann patent does not disclose any rib or other element that extends over a height defined by the lower rim of the pulley 27. In fact, the clamp is arranged entirely below the plane defined by the lower rim of the pulley. Accordingly, applicants submit that claim 26 as amended and the claims depending therefrom are allowable over the Kaufmann patent.

With respect to claim 32, applicants submit that the Kaufmann patent does not teach or suggest a yarn feeder that includes bearing seats that are tubular members pointing away from each other with "each tubular member being integrally formed in a respective one of the housing parts." The Kaufmann patent does not teach or suggest any tubular members nor any other comparable component that could align the bearings of "a shaft extending substantially vertically through [the] housing." Thus, applicants respectfully submit that claim 32 as amended and the claims depending therefrom are patentable over the Kaufmann patent.

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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